

the condition of education 2006



INDICATOR 8

Children With Disabilities in Public Schools

The indicator and corresponding tables are taken directly from *The Condition of Education 2006*. Therefore, the page numbers may not be sequential.

Additional information about the survey data and supplementary notes can be found in the full report. For a copy of *The Condition of Education 2006*, visit the NCES website (<http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.sap?pubid=2006071>) or contact ED PUBs at 1-877-4ED-PUBS.

Suggested Citation:

U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2006). *The Condition of Education 2006*, NCES 2006-071, Washington, DC: U.S. Government Printing Office.



Elementary/Secondary Education

Children With Disabilities in Public Schools

The number and percentage of school-age children receiving special education services have grown steadily since 1976–77, especially among children with a diagnosed, specific learning disability.

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), enacted in 1975, mandates that youth with disabilities are provided a free and appropriate public school education. In 1990, IDEA was expanded to require services for children under age 3. Data collection activities to monitor compliance with IDEA began in 1976.

Since the inception of IDEA, the number and percentage of youth ages 3–21 enrolled in public schools who receive special education services have steadily increased (see supplemental table 8-1). In 1976–77, some 3.7 million youth were served under IDEA, and these youth made up 8 percent of total public school enrollment. By 2003–04, some 6.6 million youth received IDEA services, corresponding to 14 percent of total public school enrollment. Among these students served, 2 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native, 2 percent were Asian/Pacific Islander, 20 percent were Black, 16 percent were Hispanic, and 61 percent were White (U.S. Department of Education 2005).

Growth in service receipt occurred from 1976 through 2002¹ among all age groups (see

supplemental table 8-2). In 1976–77, some 0.4 percent of children ages 3–5 enrolled in early education programs received services through IDEA, compared with 1.3 percent in 2001–02. The percentage of public school students ages 6–21 receiving services increased from 8 to 12 percent during this period. Early intervention services for infants and toddlers (under age 3) were authorized in 1990. Service receipt increased from 0.1 percent of infants and toddlers in 1991 to 0.5 percent in 2002.

Among school-age youth (ages 6–21), specific learning disabilities were the most prevalent disability and had the largest increase in service receipt. From 1976–77 through 2001–02, the percentage of students (ages 6–21) receiving special education services for a specific learning disability increased threefold (from 2 to 6 percent). In contrast, the percentage of school-age students receiving special education services for speech or language impairments, the second most prevalent disability, remained fairly constant during this period (from 2.6 to 2.3 percent).

¹ Detailed enrollment data by age group are not yet available beyond 2001–02.

² Other includes mental retardation, emotional disturbance, hearing impairments, orthopedic impairments, other health impairments, visual impairments, multiple disabilities, deaf-blindness, autism, traumatic brain injury, and developmental delay.

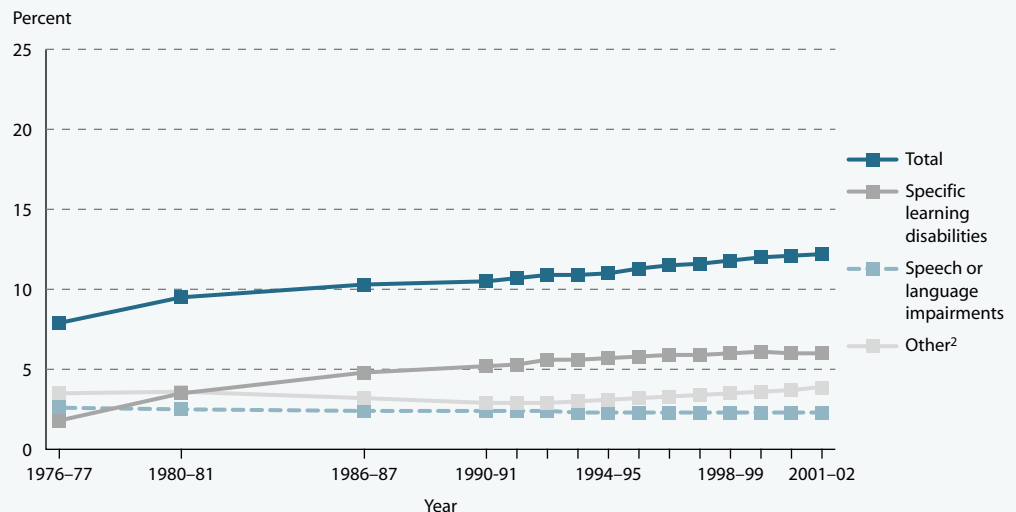
NOTE: Special education services through the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) are available for eligible youth diagnosed by a medical professional as having a disability that adversely affects their academic performance. The total is the percentage of youth receiving special education services through IDEA who are enrolled in public schools in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. See supplemental note 8 for more information about student disabilities. American Indian includes Alaska Native, Pacific Islander includes Native Hawaiian, Black includes African American, and Hispanic includes Latino. Race categories exclude Hispanic origin unless specified.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). (2005). *25th Annual (2003) Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, vols. 1 and 2, table 53. Data from U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Data Analysis System (DANS), 1976–2004, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2005).



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Supplemental Note 8
Supplemental Tables 8-1, 8-2
U.S. Department of Education
2005

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES: Percentage of students ages 6–21 in public schools receiving services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), by primary disability type: Selected years, 1976–77 through 2001–02



Children With Disabilities in Public Schools

Table 8-1. Number and percentage of youth ages 3–21 served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA): 1976–77 through 2004–05

| Year | Total served under IDEA (in thousands) | Percentage of total public school enrollment served under IDEA ¹ | Percentage of total population served under IDEA ² |
|-----------|---|--|--|
| 1976–77 | 3,692 | 8.3 | 5.1 |
| 1977–78 | 3,755 | 8.6 | 5.2 |
| 1978–79 | 3,894 | 9.2 | 5.5 |
| 1979–80 | 4,010 | 9.7 | 5.6 |
| 1980–81 | 4,146 | 10.1 | 5.8 |
| 1981–82 | 4,203 | 10.5 | 5.9 |
| 1982–83 | 4,260 | 10.8 | 6.2 |
| 1983–84 | 4,304 | 10.9 | 6.3 |
| 1984–85 | 4,320 | 11.1 | 6.3 |
| 1985–86 | 4,322 | 11.0 | 6.4 |
| 1986–87 | 4,379 | 11.0 | 6.5 |
| 1987–88 | 4,414 | 11.0 | 6.6 |
| 1988–89 | 4,493 | 11.2 | 6.7 |
| 1989–90 | 4,599 | 11.3 | 6.8 |
| 1990–91 | 4,717 | 11.5 | 6.9 |
| 1991–92 | 4,881 | 11.7 | 7.1 |
| 1992–93 | 5,042 | 12.0 | 7.3 |
| 1993–94 | 5,223 | 12.1 | 7.5 |
| 1994–95 | 5,386 | 12.2 | 7.6 |
| 1995–96 | 5,581 | 12.5 | 7.7 |
| 1996–97 | 5,738 | 12.7 | 7.8 |
| 1997–98 | 5,912 | 12.9 | 7.9 |
| 1998–99 | 6,054 | 13.1 | 8.0 |
| 1999–2000 | 6,203 | 13.3 | 8.1 |
| 2000–01 | 6,304 | 13.4 | 8.2 |
| 2001–02 | 6,410 | 13.4 | 8.3 |
| 2002–03 | 6,532 | 13.5 | 8.4 |
| 2003–04 | 6,642 | 13.7 | 8.6 |
| 2004–05 | 6,727 | — | 8.7 |

— Not yet available.

¹ Number of children served as a percentage of all children ages 3–21 enrolled in early childhood center programs and elementary and secondary schools.

² Number of children served under IDEA as a percentage of the total population ages 3–21.

NOTE: Special education services through IDEA are available for eligible youth diagnosed by a medical professional as having a disability that adversely affects academic performance. The total includes youth receiving special education services through IDEA in early education centers and public schools in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. See *supplemental note 8* for more information about student disabilities.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Data Analysis System (DANS), 1976–2004, retrieved December 20, 2005 from <https://www.ideadata.org/docs/PartBTrendData/B1.html>.

Children With Disabilities in Public Schools

Table 8-2. Percentage of youth age 21 or younger served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), by age and disability: Selected school years, 1976–77 through 2001–02

| Age and disability | 1976 –77 | 1980 –81 | 1986 –87 | 1990 –91 | 1991 –92 | 1992 –93 | 1993 –94 | 1994 –95 | 1995 –96 | 1996 –97 | 1997 –98 | 1998 –99 | 1999 –2000 | 2000 –01 | 2001 –02 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
| Percentage of total population (under age 3) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Infants and toddlers (under age 3) | — | — | — | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 |
| Percentage of early education center and public school enrollment (ages 3–21) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Preschool-age (ages 3–5) | 0.4 | 0.6 | 0.7 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 1.1 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| School-age (ages 6–21) | 7.9 | 9.5 | 10.3 | 10.5 | 10.7 | 10.9 | 10.9 | 11.0 | 11.3 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 11.8 | 12.0 | 12.1 | 12.2 |
| Specific learning disabilities | 1.8 | 3.5 | 4.8 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.6 | 5.6 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 6.0 |
| Speech or language impairments | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Mental retardation | 2.1 | 2.0 | 1.6 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| Emotional disturbance | 0.6 | 0.8 | 0.9 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 | 1.0 |
| Hearing impairments | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Orthopedic impairments | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Other health impairments | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.4 | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.5 | 0.6 | 0.7 |
| Visual impairments | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 |
| Multiple disabilities | — | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.2 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Deaf-blindness | — | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # |
| Autism | — | — | — | — | # | # | # | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.1 | 0.2 | 0.2 |
| Traumatic brain injury | — | — | — | — | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # | # |
| Developmental delay | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | # | # | # | 0.1 | 0.1 |

— Not available.

Rounds to zero.

NOTE: Detail may not sum to totals because of rounding. Special education services through IDEA are available for eligible youth diagnosed by a medical professional as having a disability that adversely affects academic performance. Enrollment among youth ages 3–21 includes those in early education centers and public schools in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and in Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. See *supplemental note 8* for more information about student disabilities.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Data Analysis System (DANS), 1976–2004, previously unpublished tabulation (December 2005).